

Jan Thompson Takes Western Region Helm

The Department of Workforce Services is proud to announce the appointment of Janice B. Thompson as the new Director of Western Region.

As head of Western Region, Thompson will oversee Workforce Services' activities in Juab, Millard, Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne, Garfield, Beaver, Kane, Iron, and Washington counties.

The Department of Workforce Services provides quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment, training, and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.

Jan brings a wealth of experience to the Western Region, having worked with Utah employment issues for 25 years. She began her career with the Utah Department of Employment Security (Job Service) in 1975 as an interviewer dealing with all of the department's employment programs. Over the next twenty years, she climbed the career ladder through the various rungs of lead-worker and supervisor.

When the Department of Employment Security joined

with other Utah agencies to become the Department of Workforce Services, Jan oversaw the complex consolidation process in six of the Western Region's eleven counties. She then became the Employment Center manager in St. George.

Jan has served as the Western Region's interim director since April. In August, this interim

assignment was made permanent.

In addition to her work with Employment Security and Workforce Services, Jan has represented the State of Utah on numerous governmental, educational, private, and nonprofit

boards and councils. Jan has also been an instrumental part of the committees that have helped formulate the new ways the Department of Workforce Services provides services to employers and job seekers.

Jan is a graduate of Utah State University with a degree in business administration. She has also completed requirements for her Masters of Business Administration from Utah State.

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Recap of Summer 2000: By David Nash

School construction in Kanab and Valley kept job orders for construction workers at above average.

Grand Staircase added several new seasonal summer positions giving locals more opportunities.

BLM flew some high tech positions that were most likely

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State of Utah

Governor Michael O. Leavitt

Department of Workforce Services

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West Region

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Electronic Access

to Labor Market Information

Have you ever wondered where you can quickly locate basic economic and demographic facts about Utah or its counties? Or about how many persons are employed and in what industries? What about where you can find information about income and wages? Or who the major employers in a given county are?

These are questions that are frequently asked of the economists in the Data Collection and Analysis Unit. In response to these questions a "Fact Sheet" was developed to provide quick and easy access to this basic information. The "Fact Sheets" are updated annually and provide a brief overview of current information about each county as well as for the entire state.

This information is available on-line and easily accessible from our website. The two-page report covers data trends over the last five years for the population and labor force including employment by industry, number of establishments, and payrolls. A section on income and wages provides data about total personal income, per capita income, average household income, and the average monthly wage for all industries. A list of the major employers in the county as well is also provided.

To access the county "Fact Sheets" go to the following address:
http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/Regions/Fact_Sheets.htm and select the county of interest.

We need your input...

The DWS Division of Adjudication is designing a web page (as part of the DWS website) that will include information about Unemployment Insurance appeals and the appeal process.

The Department would like to have input from employers about what they would like to see on this web page. Please e-mail suggestions or comments to: wsadmpo.klink@state.ut.us.

...DWS Director Leads... UI Reform Effort

Robert C. Gross, in his role as President of the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies (ICESA), and Executive Director of the Department of Workforce Services, continued his efforts for Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reform by testifying before Congress in September.

"ICESA leadership supports fully the comprehensive UI and Employment Security (ES) reform package," said Mr. Gross. "It is a balanced package that takes into account the interests of business, labor, states, and federal government. It reflects the very nature of a compromise.... As a whole, however, all of the parties in our workgroup support this package."

The UI system is a federal-state program that provides benefits to unemployed workers with a history of labor force attachment. Every state levies taxes on employers to pay for regular unemployment benefits. The federal government also imposes a tax on employers, based on

their number of employees. This federal tax is used for state and federal administration of the UI and ES programs. All funds are kept in federal accounts that, like Social Security funds, are part of the unified federal budget.

The comprehensive UI and ES

"It's a balanced package that takes into account the interests of business, labor, states, and federal government."

reform package includes improving administrative funding, repealing the FUTA (Federal Unemployment Tax Act) 0.2% surtax and reducing employer tax filing burden. In general, ICESA believes states should determine eligibility for state UI programs, not the federal government.

Mr. Gross and other officials are optimistic that action will be taken before Congress adjourns.

President of Guerilla Marketing International *to speak* *at the Utah Employer Conference January 11*

Best selling business author, Jay Conrad Levinson, is scheduled to deliver the key note address at the third annual Utah Employer Conference.

Levinson, President of Guerrilla Marketing International, lectures around the world on guerrilla business techniques for major companies, professional organizations, and universities. He is the author or coauthor of twelve books in the best-selling Guerrilla Marketing series, which have sold more than one million copies worldwide.

The conference will be held at the E-Center in West Valley City on Thursday, January 11, 2001.

The Utah Department of Workforce Services and prominent business co-sponsors will host the conference, geared for both large and small businesses. Topical information as well as innovative solutions to the myriad of complex problems that surface on a daily basis will be presented.

This year's conference is a must for businesses looking for the most up-to-date information on current employment trends and labor laws.

Experts in the field of employment and labor will present relevant topics on issues facing employers in an ever-changing

workplace and global economy. Topics will be presented in an interactive fashion, giving attendees the opportunity to ask questions. Breakout sessions this year will cover topics such as Work/Life Issues, Labor Law Updates, Workplace Violence, Transportation Issues, Behavior Based Interviewing Practices and others.

All Utah employers are welcome to attend the conference. Registration is \$65 per person, and anyone interested in registering can call the Utah Department of Workforce Services at 1-888-920-WORK statewide.

it's only a
myth...

Myth #5:

Workforce Services is an outdated government agency with little technology.

Reality:

Utah is one of the leading states in high technology employment services. Workforce Internet sites link to jobs all across America as well as extensive information on Utah jobs statewide at the click of a mouse. Early this year, our home page had 475,566 site visits. Utah's Job Bank and the electronic job board had 97,973 visits during that same time. Applicants can apply for jobs from their own homes while employers can list jobs for free, review applicant resumes, and contact job seekers without ever leaving their business.

***A wealth of information is
awaiting you...***

www.dws.state.ut.us

Employers Participate in Job Fair...



Local employers in the Mountainland Region took this opportunity to recruit and screen potential applicants at a recent job fair. There is no cost to participate.

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**filled from out of area,
due to lack of qualified
applicants.**

**Other summer employ-
ment was high, though
off a little from last year.
Employers felt a bit of a
labor crunch in the Kane
County area as a large
part of the younger work-
force moved to college
towns.**

Visit our website at: www.dws.state.ut.us